

REMARKS

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejections

The Office Action rejects claims 1-36 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 6,324,522 (Peterson).

Applicants have amended claim 1 to more clearly distinguish over the Peterson reference. Claim 1 recites a method of processing commercial transactions through an Internet website comprising providing a supplier database. The supplier database includes a plurality of suppliers and describes a type of product distributed by each supplier and a service performed by each supplier. The method includes receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website. The request for goods or services includes line items. Each line item consists of a manufacturer, part number, description, quantity, delivery date, a geographical area preference and a predefined grouping preference. The predefined grouping preference consists of a type of supplier, preferred status, and association membership status. The method includes inspecting the request for goods or services to determine types of goods and types of services included in the request for goods or services, and selecting potential suppliers from the supplier database for each of the types of goods and the types of services included in the request for goods or services in accordance with the geographical area preference and predefined grouping preference. The method includes transmitting the request for goods or services to each of the potential suppliers, and receiving a return quote from each of the potential suppliers in response to the request. Each return quote includes a price, availability, delivery instructions, warranty information, insurance information,

handling charges, expiration date, internal reference number, tax exempt status, payment terms, comments, and special instructions. The method includes transmitting the return quotes through the Internet website to an originator of the request.

The Peterson reference does not teach or suggest receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website. The request for goods or services includes line items. Each line item consists of a manufacturer, part number, description, quantity, delivery date, geographical area preference and predefined grouping preference. The predefined grouping preference consists of a type of supplier, preferred status, and association membership status.

The Peterson reference does not teach or suggest inspecting the request for goods or services to determine types of goods and types of services included in the request for goods or services, selecting potential suppliers from the supplier database for each of the types of goods and the types of services included in the request for goods or services in accordance with the geographical area preference and predefined grouping preference, or transmitting the request for goods or services to each of the potential suppliers. In the Peterson reference, a user first searches for potential vendors by entering search criteria into a conventional search page. Column 8, lines 38-41. Using the search criteria, the user retrieves a listing of vendors that supply specific products or services, and are located in a specific region. Column 8, lines 39-40. The user may also search for vendors having a specific name. Column 8, line 40. Having retrieved a listing of potential vendors, the user then contacts each of the vendors to submit a bill of materials, to order products or services or to request a quote. For example,

the "user can submit a quote with the vendor selected in the step 308 by clicking on the 'Request a New Quote' button 380." Column 27, lines 19-21. Accordingly, in the Peterson reference, the user must both search for a listing of vendors and then contact the individual vendors to get price quotes or to place an order. In the present system, however, the user only needs to submit a request for goods or services. The system then independently searches for a listing of suitable suppliers based on the contents of the request and contacts those suppliers to get price quotes. Accordingly, the user in the present system does not need to search for and contact each of a listing of potential suppliers. The Peterson reference fails to disclose a system that generates both a listing of suppliers based upon the contents of a request for goods or services and also contacts those suppliers to retrieve a quote. Therefore, the Peterson reference does not disclose a system that inspects the request for goods or services to determine types of goods and types of services included in the request for goods or services, selects potential suppliers from the supplier database for each of the types of goods and the types of services included in the request for goods or services in accordance with the geographical area preference and predefined grouping preference, and transmits the request for goods or services to each of the potential suppliers.

The Peterson reference does not teach or suggest wherein each return quote includes a price, availability, delivery instructions, warranty information, insurance information, handling charges, expiration date, internal reference number, tax exempt status, payment terms, comments, and special instructions. The method includes transmitting the return quotes through the Internet website to an originator of the request.

Therefore, claim 1, as amended, is believed to patentably distinguish over the Peterson reference. Claims 5, and 7-10 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

Applicants have amended claim 11 to more clearly distinguish over the Peterson reference. Claim 11 recites a method of processing commercial transactions through an Internet website comprising providing a supplier database. The supplier database includes a plurality of suppliers and describes a type of product distributed by each supplier or a service performed by each supplier. The method includes receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website. The request for goods or services includes a part number, quantity, delivery date and a geographical area preference or a predefined grouping preference. The predefined grouping preference includes a type of supplier, preferred status, or association membership status. The method includes submitting the request for goods or services to a group of suppliers selected from the supplier database in accordance with the geographical area preference and predefined grouping preference, receiving a return quote in response to the request, and transmitting the return quote through the Internet website to an originator of the request.

The Peterson reference does not teach or suggest wherein the request for goods or services includes a part number, quantity, delivery date and a geographical area preference or a predefined grouping preference. The predefined grouping preference includes a type of supplier, preferred status, or association membership status.

The Peterson reference does not teach or suggest submitting the request for goods or services to a group of suppliers

selected from the supplier database in accordance with the geographical area preference and predefined grouping preference. In the Peterson reference, a user first searches for potential vendors by entering search criteria into a conventional search page. Column 8, lines 38-41. Using the search criteria, the user retrieves a listing of vendors that supply specific products or services, and are located in a specific region. Column 8, lines 39-40. The user may also search for vendors having a specific name. Column 8, line 40. Having retrieved a listing of potential vendors, the user then contacts each of the vendors to submit a bill of materials, to order products or services or to request a quote. For example, the "user can submit a quote with the vendor selected in the step 308 by clicking on the 'Request a New Quote' button 380." Column 27, lines 19-21 and FIG. 14. Accordingly, in the Peterson reference, the user must both search for a listing of vendors and then contact the individual vendors to get price quotes or to place an order. In the present system, however, the user only needs to submit a request for goods or services. The system then independently searches for a listing of suitable suppliers based on the contents of the request and contacts those suppliers to get price quotes. Accordingly, the user in the present system does not need to search for and contact each of a listing of potential suppliers. The Peterson reference fails to disclose a system that generates both a listing of suppliers based upon the contents of a request for goods or services and also contacts those suppliers to retrieve a quote. Therefore, the Peterson reference does not describe a system that submits the request for goods or services to a group of suppliers selected from the supplier database in accordance with the geographical area preference and predefined grouping

preference

Therefore, claim 11, as amended, is believed to patentably distinguish over the Peterson reference. Claims 12, 15-17 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

Applicants have amended claim 18 to more clearly distinguish over the Peterson reference. Claim 18 recites a method of supplying goods or services through an Internet website comprising providing a supplier database, receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website, and selecting potential suppliers from the supplier database for each of the goods or services included in the request for goods or services. The method includes transmitting the request for goods or services to each of the potential suppliers, and communicating a return quote in response to the request for goods or services to an originator of the request.

The Peterson reference does not teach or suggest selecting potential suppliers from the supplier database for each of the goods or services included in the request for goods or services or transmitting the request for goods or services to each of the potential suppliers. In the Peterson reference, a user first searches for potential vendors by entering search criteria into a conventional search page. Column 8, lines 38-41. Using the search criteria, the user retrieves a listing of vendors that supply specific products or services, and are located in a specific region. Column 8, lines 39-40. The user may also search for vendors having a specific name. Column 8, line 40. Having retrieved a listing of potential vendors, the user then contacts each of the vendors to submit a bill of materials, to order products or services or to request a quote. For example,

the "user can submit a quote with the vendor selected in the step 308 by clicking on the 'Request a New Quote' button 380." Column 27, lines 19-21 and FIG. 14. Accordingly, in the Peterson reference, the user must both search for a listing of vendors and then contact the individual vendors to get price quotes or to place an order. In the present system, however, the user only needs to submit a request for goods or services. The system then independently searches for a listing of suitable suppliers based on the contents of the request and contacts those suppliers to get price quotes. Accordingly, the user in the present system does not need to search for and contact each of a listing of potential suppliers. The Peterson reference fails to disclose a system that generates both a listing of suppliers based upon the contents of a request for goods or services and also contacts those suppliers to retrieve a quote. Therefore, the Peterson reference does not describe a system that selects potential suppliers from the supplier database for each of the goods or services included in the request for goods or services or transmits the request for goods or services to each of the potential suppliers.

Therefore, claim 18, as amended, is believed to patentably distinguish over the Peterson reference. Claims 20-22 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

Applicants have amended claim 23 to more clearly distinguish over the Peterson reference. Claim 23 recites a method of supporting transactions for goods or services through an Internet website comprising providing a supplier database, receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website, and selecting a group of suppliers from the supplier

database. The group of suppliers is capable of supplying a good or providing a service included in the request. The method includes communicating the request to the group of suppliers, and providing for selection of at least one of the group of suppliers to supply the goods or services.

The Peterson reference does not teach or suggest selecting a group of suppliers from the supplier database. The group of suppliers is capable of supplying a good or providing a service included in the request. In the Peterson reference, a user first searches for potential vendors by entering search criteria into a conventional search page. Column 8, lines 38-41. Using the search criteria, the user retrieves a listing of vendors that supply specific products or services, and are located in a specific region. Column 8, lines 39-40. The user may also search for vendors having a specific name. Column 8, line 40. Having retrieved a listing of potential vendors, the user then contacts each of the vendors to submit a bill of materials, to order products or services or to request a quote. For example, the "user can submit a quote with the vendor selected in the step 308 by clicking on the 'Request a New Quote' button 380." Column 27, lines 19-21 and FIG. 14. Accordingly, in the Peterson reference, the user must both search for a listing of vendors and then contact the individual vendors to get price quotes or to place an order. In the present system, however, the user only needs to submit a request for goods or services. The system then independently searches for a listing of suitable suppliers based on the contents of the request and contacts those suppliers to get price quotes. Accordingly, the user in the present system does not need to search for and contact each of a listing of potential suppliers. The Peterson reference fails to disclose a

system that generates both a listing of suppliers based upon the contents of a request for goods or services and also contacts those suppliers to retrieve a quote. Therefore, the Peterson reference does not describe a system that selects a group of suppliers from the supplier database. The group of suppliers is capable of supplying a good or providing a service included in the request. The Peterson reference also does not describe a system that communicates the request to the group of suppliers.

Therefore, claim 23, as amended, is believed to patentably distinguish over the Peterson reference. Claims 24, 26 and 28-30 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

Applicants have amended claim 31 to more clearly distinguish over the Peterson reference. Claim 31 recites a system of supporting transactions for goods or services through an Internet website comprising means for providing a supplier database, means for receiving a request for goods or services through an Internet website, and means for selecting a group of suppliers from the supplier database. The group of suppliers is capable of supplying a good or providing a service included in the request. The system includes means for communicating the request to the group of suppliers, and means for providing for selection of at least one of the group of suppliers to supply the goods or services.

The Peterson reference does not teach or suggest means for selecting a group of suppliers from the supplier database. The group of suppliers is capable of supplying a good or providing a service included in the request. The Peterson reference also does not teach or suggest means for communicating the request to the group of suppliers. In the Peterson reference, a user first

searches for potential vendors by entering search criteria into a conventional search page. Column 8, lines 38-41. Using the search criteria, the user retrieves a listing of vendors that supply specific products or services, and are located in a specific region. Column 8, lines 39-40. The user may also search for vendors having a specific name. Column 8, line 40. Having retrieved a listing of potential vendors, the user then contacts each of the vendors to submit a bill of materials, to order products or services or to request a quote. For example, the "user can submit a quote with the vendor selected in the step 308 by clicking on the 'Request a New Quote' button 380." Column 27, lines 19-21 and FIG. 14. Accordingly, in the Peterson reference, the user must both search for a listing of vendors and then contact the individual vendors to get price quotes or to place an order. In the present system, however, the user only needs to submit a request for goods or services. The system then independently searches for a listing of suitable suppliers based on the contents of the request and contacts those suppliers to get price quotes. Accordingly, the user in the present system does not need to search for and contact each of a listing of potential suppliers. The Peterson reference fails to disclose a system that generates both a listing of suppliers based upon the contents of a request for goods or services and also contacts those suppliers to retrieve a quote. Therefore, the Peterson reference does not describe means for selecting a group of suppliers from the supplier database. The group of suppliers is capable of supplying a good or providing a service included in the request. The Peterson reference also does not describe means for communicating the request to the group of suppliers.

Therefore, claim 31, as amended, is believed to patentably

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distinguish over the Peterson reference. Claims 32-36 are believed to be in condition for allowance as each is dependent from an allowable base claim.

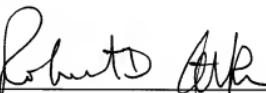
Conclusion

Applicant(s) believe that all information and requirements for the application have been provided to the USPTO. If there are matters that can be discussed by telephone to further the prosecution of the Application, Applicant(s) invite the Examiner to call the undersigned attorney at the Examiner's convenience.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees due with this Response to U.S. PTO Account No. 17-0055.

Respectfully submitted,
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